

## Dobrynin: Afghan pullout terms ready

VIENNA (R) — Moscow and Kabul have agreed on a timetable for a phased withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Anatoly Dobrynin, a senior Soviet Communist Party official, was quoted on Wednesday as saying. Writing in the Czechoslovak Communist Party newspaper Rude Pravo, Mr. Dobrynin said: "In the near future, the Soviet Union would like to withdraw the Soviet forces that are in Afghanistan at the request of the government. A timetable of their phased withdrawal has already been agreed with the Afghan side." Mr. Dobrynin, a central committee secretary and former Soviet ambassador to Washington, did not make clear what conditions were necessary for the withdrawal. He described United Nations-sponsored talks on Afghanistan in Geneva as at a "decisive stage."

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## Gemayel welcomes Assad remarks

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel on Wednesday welcomed recent remarks on the Lebanese situation from Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad. "We welcome them and we will reply with positive initiatives... he who takes a step towards us will have a reply with steps," Mr. Gemayel said in a speech. He was apparently referring to a Beirut lawyers' union statement earlier this month quoting Mr. Assad as saying Syria would not object if a Damascus-mediated peace accord for Lebanon was amended. Mr. Assad personally backed the accord when Lebanese militias signed it in Damascus last December. Mr. Gemayel's opposition to the pact contributed to its collapse, after anti-Syrian Christian hardliners ousted its Christian signatory. Mr. Gemayel said: "If we reached an understanding with all the forces on the earth and we remained on bad terms with Syria this would not be (good) for either Lebanon or Syria."

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## Israel, Egypt continue talks

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S.-mediated talks on the Tabat border dispute between Israel and Egypt entered their third day on Wednesday with negotiators at odds over phrasing terms for arbitration aimed at settling the four-year-old conflict. The delegations met late into the night and solved all bilateral issues between them apart from the phrasing of the arbitration agreement, Israeli officials said.

## Moscow assails new U.S. test

MOSCOW (R) — The official news agency TASS said on Wednesday the United States had conducted a nuclear test in the Nevada desert and condemned it as contrary to the demands of world opinion. "A new nuclear explosion codenamed 'Panamint' has been conducted at a Nevada test site Wednesday, contrary to the demands of the world public that an end be put to the nuclear arms race, which is a source of lethal danger to mankind," TASS said. It said this was the fourth such U.S. blast this year and the 11th since the Soviet Union introduced a moratorium on its own tests last Aug. 6.

## 5 irradiated at French plant

PARIS (AP) — Five workers at a reprocessing plant were irradiated, one receiving more than double the annual allowed dose of radiation and another receiving more than three times the limit, the company said Wednesday. An official of Cogema, a state-owned nuclear reprocessing company, said the five workers, contaminated Tuesday afternoon at the contentin factory in La Hague in northeast France, were sent home after medical examinations. The contentin factory reprocesses spent fuel from nuclear reactors, separating the plutonium.

## China: No change in stand over Israel

PEKING (R) — China admitted on Wednesday it had telephone links with Israel but said this did not alter its policy barring dealings with the Jewish state. A top Israeli official said in Tel Aviv two days ago the two countries established telephone links two months ago despite the absence of formal diplomatic ties. "There has been no change in our policy," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Peking. "We have no dealings with Israel."

## 'Sport Aid' runner in Warsaw

WARSAW (AP) — Sudanese runner Omar Khalifa led 10 marathoners in a sprint through Warsaw's historic old town on Wednesday, the first excursion into the Soviet bloc in the "Sport Aid" campaign for African famine victims. Khalifa, a Sudanese army lieutenant who is the world's 1500-metre champion, was to run in Budapest, Hungary, later Wednesday after departing from Poland. He is carrying an Olympic torch from Khartoum through 12 European capitals en route to New York to help raise funds for African famine relief.

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# Reagan vetoes bill against arms sales to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan on Wednesday vetoed legislation that would have banned a controversial sale of advanced U.S. missiles to Saudi Arabia, an aide to Senate Majority leader Robert Dole said.

The veto paved the way for a possible vote in the Senate later on Wednesday to either sustain the veto and allow the sale to go through or to override it, blocking it permanently. Senate aides said that the timing of Mr. Reagan's veto indicated the White House believed it had enough votes to permit the sale to proceed. An aide in Mr. Dole's office told Reuters Mr. Reagan had vetoed the so-called "resolution of dis-

## U.S. declines comment on surviving Rome gunman's alleged confession

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said on Wednesday the White House had no comment on a report that Syria was directly linked to the Dec. 27 attack on Rome airport. The New York Times reported Wednesday that the sole gunman to survive the attack on the Rome airport in which 17 people died has directly linked Syria to his mission.

The newspaper quoted unnamed U.S. officials as saying Italian authorities told the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that Mohammed Sarham had told his Italian captors that he had been trained and transported for the

## U.S. envoy to Vatican denies controversy over Libya trip behind his resignation

ROME (Agencies) — The U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, who resigned on Tuesday, denied on Wednesday he was forced to step down and declined to discuss a controversial meeting with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi earlier this year for which he was officially reprimanded.

The State Department on Tuesday announced the resignation of William Wilson, 71, a convert to Roman Catholicism and personal friend of President Ronald Reagan, who became ambassador in 1984 when full diplomatic ties were established with the Vatican. At a news conference at the U.S. embassy to the Vatican, Mr. Wilson declined to answer many questions by reporters concerning the trip to Libya in January, saying it had already been discussed in Washington.

Mr. Wilson caused a furor in Washington when it was disclosed that he had secretly met Col. Qadhafi at a time the Reagan administration had accused Libya of being behind the guerrilla attacks at Rome and Vienna airports on Dec. 17.

The State Department later said the trip had not been authorized and that Secretary of State George Shultz had reprimanded Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson, who met Mr. Reagan this week, said he was not called to Washington and was not forced to resign. He added: "There is no controversy between myself and Secretary of State Shultz."

State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said Mr. Wilson submitted his resignation to President Reagan on Monday "expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to serve and his desire after five years on the job to return to private life."

approval" passed overwhelmingly earlier this month by Congress but that the papers had not yet arrived on Capitol Hill. There was no immediate confirmation from the White House. Mr. Dole told reporters earlier that he intended to have a quick vote on the veto once it arrived on Capitol Hill.

The removal on Tuesday of some 800 Stinger air-to-air weapons worth \$89 million from the \$354 million package of 2,600

advanced anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles apparently allowed the administration to persuade enough senators to switch from opposition to support of the sale.

The veto — arriving just several hours before Wednesday's mid-night deadline — came after a day of intensive White House lobbying to try to win what Mr. Dole said earlier was the "two or three" Senate votes needed to sustain the veto.

The White House has focused its battle to overturn the ban on the arms sale in the Republican-controlled Senate, where 34 votes were needed to make Mr. Reagan's veto stick.

Mr. Dole said earlier that despite the withdrawal Tuesday of

the report. U.S. officials still believe Libya was involved in the Rome and Vienna airport attacks on Dec. 27 in which 20 people died, but in view of new evidence they now feel Syria played at least an equal role, the New York Times quoted sources as saying.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has denied his country had anything to do with the attacks.

The Italian account and British reports linking Syria to the attempt to blow up an El Al airliner in London several weeks ago have caused the CIA to review Syria's alleged role in international guerrilla activity.

The president expressed his deep appreciation to Ambassador Wilson for his productive work during the course of which full diplomatic relations were established between the United States and the holy see," Redman said.

Redman refused to link the resignation to the January reprimand. Mr. Wilson, a former member of the board of the Pennzoil oil company, said he had not conducted oil business with Libya since he first came to the Vatican as Mr. Reagan's personal envoy. He denied reports that Washington had warned him several times about his private business dealings.

For a period after his appointment as ambassador in 1984, Mr. Wilson was allowed to keep two corporate board positions, including Pennzoil, in an exception to State Department rules.

On another Mideast issue, Redman declined to offer specific information about reports that the Reagan administration has discussed with Soviet officials Syrian involvement in "terrorism" and allegations the Soviets warned the United States against military action directed at Syria.

"As always, I'm not going to engage in any information concerning diplomatic exchanges," the deputy spokesman said. "We've noted on several occasions from this podium that the U.S. has been engaged for some time in efforts to reduce regional tensions in the Middle East."

"We have discussed the subject with all the appropriate players. Without being drawn into specifics, I can say that at various times, as you all know, we have discussed the Middle East, as well as other regional issues, with the Soviet Union. But I'll leave my response in that general fashion."

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KING VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday confers with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker at the General Headquarters. Prime

Minister and Minister of Defence Zaid Rifai accompanied the King on the visit to the GHQ. Gen. Sharif Zaid returned to Amman from Saudi Arabia early Wednesday after delivering a message from the King to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz (Petra photo)

## Defiant Botha vows to pursue violent campaign against ANC

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — President P.W. Botha said Wednesday that South Africa's cross-border raids this week were just the "first instalment" in the campaign to crush the African National Congress (ANC) liberation movement. A defiant Botha told the Indian chamber of parliament in Cape Town that the government "has the will and capacity to break the ANC."

"We will continue to strike against ANC base facilities in foreign countries in accordance with our legal rights," he said. "If it's necessary we'll strike again... as long as I'm the head of state it will be done in the interests of South Africa."

"We will certainly not be deterred by fanciful arguments that are being advanced here and abro-

ad, South Africa has the capacity and the will to break the ANC if we stand together."

"We have only delivered the first instalment," Mr. Botha said. Pretoria's white-led government has provoked widespread international condemnation for attacking alleged guerrilla facilities in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Monday's raids came as attempts were being made by the Commonwealth to arrange a truce between South Africa and the ANC. Mr. Botha again sharply criticized the United Nations, accusing it of bias against his government in favour of the ANC and the Pan-Africanist Congress.

A leading South African newspaper said the raids had no convincing military rationale and

were designed to mollify the restive right-wing of the ruling National Party.

Zimbabwean President Kenneth Kaunda warned that a political "volcano" could erupt in southern Africa killing hundreds of thousands if the West did not impose economic sanctions to overturn apartheid.

Mr. Kaunda, in an interview published in the East German newspaper Berliner Zeitung, said sanctions would strengthen black opposition to white minority rule. Time was running out for a peaceful solution, he said.

Zimbabwe declared on Wednesday that the South African attacks gave impetus to the need for a pan-African peace-keeping force.

Frontline states call for sanctions against Pretoria, page 8

## Bombs explode in Jerusalem, Ashkelon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A roadside bomb exploded in Jerusalem and another explosive device went off in the southern coastal town of Ashkelon on Wednesday, but neither caused any injuries or damage, the Israeli news agency Dim reported.

It said the bomb in Jerusalem went off as a military vehicle passed a road junction near Atarot, a northern suburb of the city.

The other bomb exploded at a road junction in Ashkelon, 40 kilometres south of Tel Aviv, in an area where Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip gather in the mornings to find day labour.

It said Ashkelon police closed off the area for a short time and arrested suspects.

In the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, three petrol bombs were thrown Tuesday night at Israeli paramilitary police, causing no injuries, Israel Radio reported.

## Junblatt: UNIFIL withdrawal will trigger a new war with Israel

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt has warned that any withdrawal of United Nations peacekeeping troops from South Lebanon would "open the door for a new war with Israel."

"Any such action would be a threat to the south and would open the door for a new war with Israel," Mr. Junblatt, in Paris, told a correspondent of Beirut's As Saafir daily.

Mr. Junblatt also condemned as "a very dangerous attack" the shooting in the south on Tuesday of a UNIFIL helicopter carrying a French parliamentary team and the French ambassador.

Parliamentarians Jean-Francois Deniau and Andre Bellon and Ambassador Christian Graeff escaped unharmed when gunmen opened fire at the aircraft, forcing

it to land after a fuel tank was hit.

Mr. Junblatt, who Tuesday met French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Bernard Raimond, told As Saafir he did not get a definite answer from French officials about the future of the French troops in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Paris campaigned successfully last month for the U.N. Security Council to halve UNIFIL's renewable mandate to three months to keep the nine-nation force under tighter review.

Mr. Deniau told reporters on Wednesday Tuesday's attack "was not just an incident, it was an attempt at killing."

Asked about the gunmen who opened fire, he said: "I don't have any information... I think the Lebanese authorities should tell us this."

Mr. Deniau did not accuse any

## East-West summit not before November elections in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S.-Soviet summit that President Reagan had hoped would take place this summer will not be held until after congressional elections in November, a U.S. official said.

The statement, by Assistant Secretary of State Rozanne Ridgway, was the firmest public acknowledgement so far by the administration that Mr. Reagan's second meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would come later than he had hoped.

She also said the administration was awaiting a response from Moscow "any day" with a date to reschedule a cancelled preparatory meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Ms. Ridgway, testifying before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, was asked by panel Chairman Lee Hamilton: "Are you folks now thinking about after our elections for the summit?"

"As a practical matter that's what we're looking at," she told the Indiana Democrat.

The Reagan administration had said previously it was still hopeful the summit could take place this summer, although it said a date after the mid-term congressional elections in November would be acceptable.

## Gonzalez cites mutual distrust as barrier to disarmament

MOSCOW (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, ending talks in the Kremlin, said on Wednesday that mutual distrust between East and West was a major barrier to disarmament.

Mr. Gonzalez told a news conference in Moscow that confidence based on verification and monitoring was the key to arms control.

Mr. Gonzalez, 43, who had five hours of talks on Tuesday with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said his visit had given him a better knowledge of the Kremlin's views on disarmament.

He said he and Mr. Gonzalez had dwelt at length on the process of economic modernisation in their countries, and touched on such subjects as the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and Central America.

Mr. Gonzalez, who also met Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov

and President Andrei Gromyko, indicated that the two sides had differed over Libya and tension in the Mediterranean region.

But he dismissed the idea that regional conflicts of this type should interfere with the global issue of disarmament.

The Soviet news agency TASS said Tuesday night that Mr. Gorbachev had told Mr. Gonzalez he was willing to hold a second summit with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, but that a start to disarmament must be made.

Mr. Gonzalez, the first Spanish government leader to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union since diplomatic relations were restored in 1977, said he believed progress on arms cuts was possible in some areas.

"I believe there is a great obstacle to get round, and the obstacle is that the elements of mutual distrust are not being overcome."

## J.T. ANNOUNCEMENT

AS OF Friday, May 23, 1986, the Jordan Times' offices will be relocated in Al Ra'i building. Also starting on that date, our new telephone numbers will be the same as those of our sister newspaper: 667171-6 and 670141-4. Current telephone numbers 666285 and 666320 will no longer be in use after May 23, 1986.







## Jordan, Egypt sign \$24m trade exchange protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt have signed a package deal to exchange goods worth more than \$24 million in implementation of an agreement endorsed by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, which convened in Amman towards the end of last month. Ministry of Industry and Trade Under Secretary Mohammad Al Saqqaf told the Jordan Times that the agreement will probably go into effect by the end of this month once it has been approved by the ministers of industry in Egypt and Jordan, Sultan Abu Ali and Rajai Mawasher.

Under the terms of the deal, signed in Cairo last week, Jordan will sell Egypt cement worth at least \$24 million in addition to a variety of national products and in exchange will import Egyptian rice, cotton, seeds and textile products.

Mr. Saqqaf signed the deal with

his Egyptian counterpart Ahmad Al Banna during Mr. Saqqaf's visit to Cairo at the head of a Jordanian delegation.

Last month, the committee endorsed joint projects which will be carried out by the two countries and also approved an agreement to annually exchange national products worth \$55 million for each side.

### Transport contract

Earlier, a Jordanian consortium of companies won a contract to transport Iraqi cement to Egypt via Agaba.

Ministry of Industry sources said that the \$20 million deal is expected to boost economic and trade ties between Iraq, Egypt and Jordan and would employ hundreds of trucks to transport the cement from Iraq to Agaba, where it will be shipped to Egypt in special cargo vessels.

## Yarmouk to reopen Saturday for students' final exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University will reopen its doors on Saturday to allow students to sit for their final examinations, delayed for one week following unrest at the campus last week. The reopening of the university for the examinations is being done upon directives of His Majesty King Hussein, who also ordered that all students detained in the disturbances be released.

In the meantime, eight teachers and staff members have reportedly been suspended from work by a special ministerial committee investigating the causes of the unrest, according to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily newspaper. The paper said that the committee, formed by the cabinet

on Saturday, has already started its investigations and members have toured the campus and held meetings with the university's board members to review the recent disturbances and their consequences.

The committee, chaired by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Touqan Hindawi and grouping Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad and Minister of Justice Riad Al Shaka'a, held an enlarged meeting at Yarmouk University on Tuesday and was investigating the suspended teachers' role in the unrest, the paper said. Once the investigation is over, the committee is expected to submit a detailed report on the incident to the cabinet.

## Jordan's mosaics to go on display in U.S., Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will organise an exhibition of its mosaic treasures from different historical ages in the United States, Canada and five European countries, according to an announcement made on Wednesday.

The announcement by Department of Antiquities Director General Adnan Al Hadidi said that Rome will be the first to host the exhibition which will be held during June and July of this year.

The exhibition is being held in cooperation with Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the Jordan Tourism Authority and the Dep-

artment of Antiquities and the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, an archaeological institute run by the Franciscan order.

During the course of the exhibition, there will be several symposiums in Rome to highlight Jordan's historical and archaeological finds and there will also be documentaries and posters on display on the occasion, according to Dr. Hadidi.

He said that later the exhibition will move on to Vienna and early next year will go to West Germany and East Germany and then to the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Hassan to open charity souk

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will inaugurate the opening of a charitable market on Friday. The market (Ramadan souk), organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs on the Istiklal road, will be open for the rest of the fasting month of Ramadan. Revenues from the souk, which includes exhibitions of books and publications, will go to the Zakat fund (alms for the poor) at the ministry. Local industrial products, children's toys, foodstuffs and household appliances will also be on display. The Ministry of Islamic Affairs will organise religious education programmes and courses at the souk.

### Fayez cables Sudanese speaker

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez Wednesday sent a congratulatory cable to President of the Sudanese National Assembly Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil congratulating him on his re-election as assembly speaker. In the cable, which Mr. Fayez sent on behalf of the 59-member house, the speaker wished Mr. Khalil and the Sudanese people all prosperity towards achieving stability and development in Sudan.

### Lebanon organises solidarity day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lebanese Ministry of Information, in cooperation with the Arab League, is organising a day of solidarity on June 5 with Lebanon's national resistance movements and on this occasion the ministry has invited Arab journalists to participate in covering the activities. A communiqué signed by president of the Jordan Journalists Association (JJA) said that the activities will be spread over a couple of days.

### Handicapped, orphans go to the circus

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH) Wednesday organised a free of charge show of the Romanian International Circus especially for residents at all centres for the handicapped and orphanages in the Kingdom. At the outset of the show, the JSFH secretary general delivered a speech in which he stressed the federation's keenness to promote sports for the handicapped by forming teams to join in international sports activities. More than 1,000 handicapped and orphan children watched the three-hour circus show which included acrobatic, comedy and sports displays. The Romanian circus will continue its shows at Al Hussein Sports City for the next two months.

### Students apply for seats at Mu'ta

KARAK (Petra) — Post offices in the Kingdom Wednesday started receiving applications from students wishing to enrol at the civil-military University of Mu'ta for the scholastic year 1986/1987. The university is accepting students who have completed the first of the two-part general certificate of secondary education (tawjihi) in both arts and sciences. Director of the university's department for enrolment and registration, Mr. Kaf-tan Al Moummni, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that students wishing to enrol for engineering courses have to score an average of 75 per cent, while students who want to study computer sciences, mathematics, physics, chemistry, business administration, law and Arabic and English languages need a minimum average of 65 per cent.

### Society lends JD 84,000 to Balqa farmers.

SALT (Petra) — A total of JD 84,000 has been lent to farmers in Balqa Governorate by the Dkhaimat cooperative society in the form of seasonal and medium-range loans. The loans have been used by the beneficiaries to develop the governorate's agricultural sector.

## Local engineering firms to restore tombs of Prophet's companions

AMMAN (Petra) — Local engineering offices have been entrusted with making essential preparations for the restoration of the tombs in Jordan where five of the Prophet Mohammad's companions are buried, according to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

He said that the tombs, found in the northern Jordan Valley region, are of Dirar Ibn Al Azwar, Abu Ubaida Ibn Al Jarrah, Shahrabil Ibn Hasna, Amer Ibn Abu Waqqas and Maaz Ibn Jubail.

The minister was speaking following a meeting during which details of the restoration project were discussed. The restoration of the tombs, to be carried out upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, has been entrusted to a special committee grouping Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud, Dr. Khayyat, Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawandeh, Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad and former minister of public works Ra'ef Nijem.

According to Dr. Khayyat, the engineering offices have now prepared the documents prior to announcing a tender for the design and commencement of work.

Mr. Nijem said that 12 engineering offices have been consulted and will be involved in one way or another in the project, which will be carried out under the supervision of the Ministry of Awqaf. The first monument will be at Abu Ubaida Ibn Abi Al Jarrah's tomb, Mr. Nijem said.

According to Dr. Assad, funds have been allocated for the project, which is designed to highlight the significance of the role of the prophet's companions in Islamic history.

At the meeting on Wednesday, a technical committee was set up to study bids for the project and a local engineering office has been entrusted with preparing designs and document tenders.

Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai earlier set up the special committee for the restoration of the tomb to supervise the work in cooperation with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

## European consortium to lease 12 Airbus planes to Alia

Ghandour outlines plans to modernise fleet, improve operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has reached agreement with a consortium of European banks for the release of 12 Airbus passenger jets, Alia Chairman Ali Ghandour announced Wednesday.

Mr. Ghandour said that a consortium of British, French, West German and Spanish banks would lease the European-built aircraft to Alia for 12 to 15 years at six monthly payments, but he did not disclose the amounts.

At the end of the lease period, he said, Alia would have the option of retaining the planes at the nominal value of one dollar each. Mr. Ghandour earlier this month signed a contract to buy six A310-300 and six smaller A320 Airbus to replace Alia's ageing fleet of Boeing 707s and 727s from the first quarter of 1987, with options for three more A310-300s and four more 320s.

According to Mr. Ghandour, Airbus Industrie, the consortium of manufacturers from France, West Germany, Britain and Spain has given Alia financial privileges, but he gave no other details.

He said that the first of the Alia fleet to be replaced with Airbus would be the 707s. Alia's Lockheed Tristars and Boeing 747s will continue to fly long and medium distance routes; and the 727s would keep flying until 1990 when they would also be replaced by Airbus, Mr. Ghandour added.

Paying for the lease in instalments is much cheaper for Alia and the payment will be made through syndicated loans, Mr. Ghandour continued.

The phasing out of the Boeing planes has been decided on in view of high maintenance costs, fuel consumption and because they make a lot of noise on take-off and landing, Mr. Ghandour added.

The new 200-passenger Airbus planes will help Alia's fleet to market Jordan as a tourist destination and will serve the whole Arab region, Mr. Ghandour said.

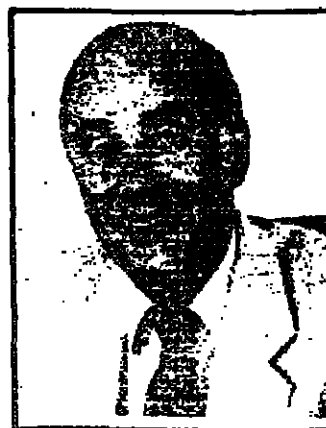
### Profits, loss

Mr. Ghandour went on to say that Alia was among a few airlines which were able to make profits between 1973 and 1984. But, he said, in 1984 Alia incurred its first loss in revenues for several reasons, the most important of which was the world economic recession resulting from regional conflicts and the loss of markets. The loss

prompted Alia to open new routes and in 1985 it was able to make a net profit of JD 1.848 million. Mr. Ghandour said.

He said in the coming month the interiors of Alia planes will be redecorated and Alia stewardesses will be wearing new costumes which depict the Jordanian identity. These changes will also be accompanied by a change in operational strategy, expected to increase the airline's revenues, Mr. Ghandour said.

The Alia chairman reiterated that the national airline will become a public share-holding company and he said government approval has already been secured for the change in status. Alia is studying the necessary steps for the change which will allow Alia's staff to be shareholders, along with the public, but the gov-



Ali Ghandour

ernment will remain a major shareholder, he continued. Mr. Ghandour said nothing has been decided yet on the question of the number or price of shares, something which Alia expects to work out by the autumn of this year.

Mr. Ghandour denied knowledge of any foreign organisation or company seeking to acquire shares in the national airline.

## AMPCO obtains JD 2.3m loan to cover crop purchases

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Syrian Bank has extended a loan totalling JD 2,312,900 to the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) and the loan will be used to help the company meet its commitments and to offer assistance to farmers in order to boost production in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Wednesday.

The agreement was signed for the bank by its general manager, Hisham Al Safadi, and for AMPCO by the company's director general Ghazi Abu Hassan. Mr. Abu Hassan said that AMPCO is implementing a bilateral agreement with the Syrian

company for marketing vegetables and fruit and he explained that this agreement aims to boost the process of trade exchange between Syria and Jordan. The new loan, he said, will enable AMPCO to pay for crops received up to April 30, 1986 and he added that payment will start in the coming week.

The cabinet earlier issued instructions for farmers to be paid JD 15 in subsidy for each dunum of land grown with tomatoes in application of the agricultural cropping pattern system. Farmers have also been allowed to reschedule the repayment of loans to various credit corporations.

## CAR FOR SALE ALMOST NEW — TAX UNPAID

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## Successful ventures revive craft of rug making

By Josephine Zananiri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Rug making has a long tradition in Jordan and the indigenous styles are quite distinctive. Such rugs are generally seventy five centimetres in width and decorated with bright, horizontal geometrical patterns. The weavers of these colourful rugs were usually village men from the Karak and Madaba region.

Several successful attempts have been made lately to upgrade weaving styles with modern patterns and colours. One of the most successful ventures has been undertaken by the women of the Bani Hamida tribe in conjunction with the Save the Children Fund. Another promising undertaking was established at Jerash by a group of local women. Interestingly, both the new endeavours are organised, operated and staffed by women.

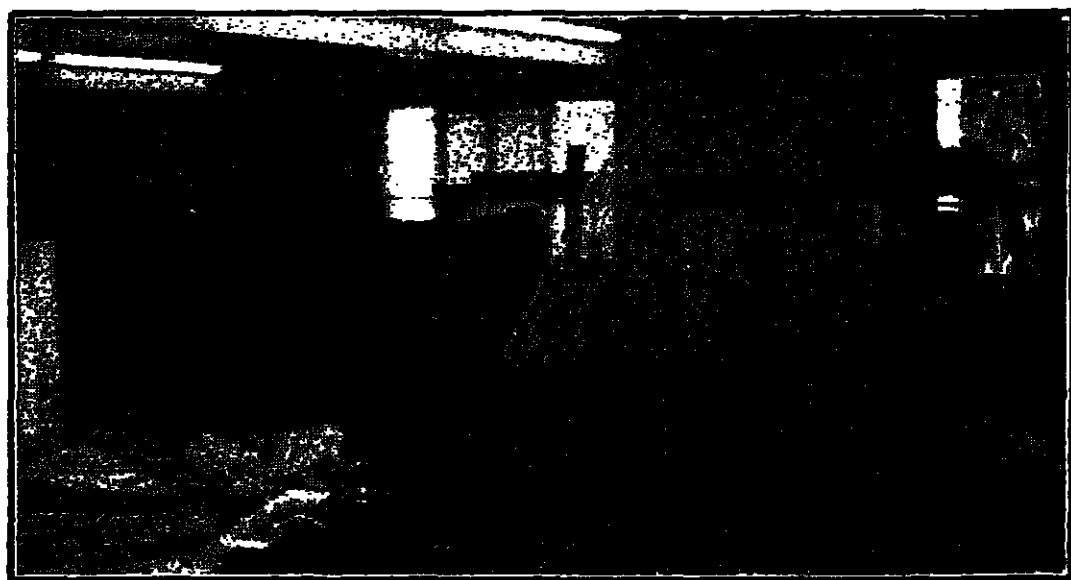
### Jerash craft centre

Situated not far from the town centre, the modest building housing the new Jerash Handicraft Centre is a hive of activity. Driving force behind the new establishment, Mrs. Inaya Khalil — an openly hospitable woman — proudly shows visitors over the centre. Although both the traditional crafts of cross-stitch embroidery and crochet are produced in quantity, the main operation remains carpet weaving.

The ten treadle looms on the premises are constructed of rough wooden beams and have an elementary simplicity. The women working each one, sit patiently playing thread after thread of wool across the loom and stacking them together with a heavy thick toothed comb. The rugs at the Jerash centre, like those of the Bani Hamida women, are entirely hand made.

The wool used by the Jerash ladies is from Jordan, explains Mrs. Khalil. Peasant women from around the town spin the wool and then sell it to the Jerash centre where it is dyed into the colourful hues of orange, red, blue, green and navy which characterise many of the centre's rugs.

Most of the handicraft centre's rugs utilise natural wool for the



Treadle looms in operation at the Jerash handicraft centre (photo by Josephine Zananiri)

background and the dyed wools for the geometrical and decorative motifs which are played horizontally into the narrow rugs. The texture of the spun wool is left rough and thick and the finished form of each rug is bulky and richly warm in appearance.

### Traditional patterns

The rugs are based upon traditional patterns and their Madaba inspiration is quite obvious. Designs, says Mrs. Khalil, are taken from old weavings, and scattered throughout the weaving rooms are ancient bags complete with tassels, parts of rugs, and camel saddle bags — each a reminder of the past expertise of Jordanian weavers. Some of the designs are new too, says Mrs. Khalil, "we got them from books."

Whilst rugs dominate the centre's production an interesting range of woven goods have been introduced, ranging from small items such as coasters, belts, and letter holders to shoulder bags, cushions complete with tassels, rubbish containers and wall hangings.

The girls working on the looms appear to enjoy their tasks and are proud to display their creations. At the moment, says Mrs. Khalil, all the weavers are unmarried and many work to supplement the family income. The centre's wea-

ving rooms are the focus of activity with many visitors watching the girls at work. Hanks of wool in bright reds, greens, oranges and black hang loosely across a line strung between two rafters. Other, loosely rolled balls, lie coiled in a colourful profusion in hand made straw baskets.

### Bani Hamida rugs

Colour is also the immediate impulse generated by the magnificent rugs woven by the women of the Bani Hamida tribe. The rugs are produced using a primitive traditional ground loom operated for centuries by the women of the bedouin tribes. Basically two logs are set about ten feet apart or depending upon the required length of the finished rug. Around two hundred woolen threads are then stretched between the beams in a kaleidoscope of surprising, yet perfectly integrated, colour. When the time consuming, horizontal plys are woven into place the result is a rug of beautifully coarse texture, integrated with an utterly stunning use of modern colour.

### Portable looms

Although the Bani Hamida tribes are settled now in the Mijawar area near Madaba, their looms are a legacy of the bedouin way of life.

Being small and easily packed onto a donkey or camel, they can be comfortably taken to the next camp site. The wooden beams supporting the rug ends could even be abandoned and new ones found at the following grazing site.

Whilst the loom and weaving techniques remain traditional, with foreigners as the principal buyers, the women have substituted the traditional darker hues of red, blue, green and black for lighter pink, mauve, blue and red as well as the natural wool colour.

Like the Jerash and older Madaba rugs those made by the Bani Hamida women are small in width. However, their rugs are later saddle stitched into double widths making a substantial and impressive floor covering. The fringes on the Bani Hamida rugs are wonderful too — long vividly coloured echoing the richness of the rugs themselves and indicating the superb quality of wool produced by the tribe's flocks.

In any craft change generally enhances the finished product and the modern colour and designs used by both the Bani Hamida women and the Jerash Handicraft Centre have not only revived a flagging cottage industry but have given provincial Jordanian women an opportunity to seek added family income and a new creative outlet.

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# Bob Geldof tells the tale of a scruffy pop star turned crusader

By Paul Majendie  
Reuter

LONDON — How on earth could a faded pop star with dishevelled hair and scruffy jeans talk people around the world into giving \$100 million to African famine relief? That question certainly intrigues rock star turned fundraiser Bob Geldof who, in a refreshingly honest autobiography, is quick to admit: "I was a distinctly unsavoury and decidedly unsuitable person for such a vocation."

"Nothing in my life, I would have thought, could have led me to this," writes the man who launched the band aid charity record, organised the Live Aid concert and is now asking the world to dig deep into its pockets again with Sport Aid.

He had drifted aimlessly as a teenager, won transitory fame as leader of the rock group the Boomtown Rats and then watched in despair as the band's popularity declined.

Suddenly his life was given purpose when he saw a television film of starving Ethiopians and decided to act. His unswerving determination then produced the world's biggest pop concert, beamed round the world by satellite from Britain and the United States.

"If the Rats had still been a success, I might never have managed to start out this enterprise which culminated for me in this moment of utter clarity of purpose, that peerless day in July 1985," he writes in his newly published autobiography, "Is That It?"

"Cynicism and greed and selfishness had been eliminated for a moment. It felt good," he says of the Live Aid concert.

To arrange the line-up for that 17-hour show by rock music's biggest names, he had to bully, charm, cajole and threaten a whole host of pop managers, promoters and television stations.

After Live Aid, Geldof was proud to boast "the artificial and at times indulgent world of pop was harnessed in an improbable marriage with the most basic human feelings of compassion."

In Geldof's native Ireland, old ladies queued up to give their wedding rings to famine relief. One young British couple sold their home for Live Aid.

Now, in what could be one final fling before band aid wraps up its charity collecting, Geldof is organising Sport Aid, due to culminate next weekend in a "race against time" sponsored run in 176 cities around the world.

It will be beamed live around the globe by television satellite and will end with Geldof in New York joining a mass run to the United Nations where the General Assembly is to hold a special session on Africa this summer.

Geldof has won international acclaim and been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize because of his ability to galvanise public opinion, raise international awareness of famine's horrendous consequences and talk bluntly to world leaders.

His down-to-earth style was dubbed "punk diplomacy" by British journalists. Geldof comments

in his book "I thought it was just speaking my mind."

Whether he was haranguing British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or accompanying Prince Charles and Princess Diana to Live Aid, Geldof's sartorial trademark was always straggly hair and an old pair of jeans.

He says in his autobiography: "People still go on about me being dirty, untidy and unkempt. It always staggers me that it bothers them so much and me not at all." His autobiography is as blunt as he is. In fact, the racier details of his youth have prompted the publishers to put a warning out on the cover to parents who may be tempted to buy the book for their children.

It is admirably honest and without pretension, detailing his aimless teenage years in Dublin. The book then chronicles a wandering life as a drug-induced hippie contemplating suicide in a London squat, work in Madrid as a language teacher, writing for a pop magazine in Vancouver, Canada and back again in Dublin being the cleaner in an abattoir.

He drifted into pop music, setting up a band that was to be called Mark Skid and the Y-fronts, changed its name to the nightlife thugs but finally settled for the Boomtown Rats, named after a street gang in an Oklahoma-oil town in Woody Guthrie's autobiography.

They were a huge success in Britain but never achieved similar fame in the United States despite touring there.

The group's popularity was waning by the time Geldof launched the Band Aid crusade with a charity record by all of this country's leading rock stars. But he will always be grateful for music's ability to break down barriers.

"Rock music is one of the great 20th century art forms, not least because of its internationalism, its ability to transcend the artificial barriers of language and frontier and speak instinctively to the whole world in a way that other sorts of music have never quite done," he writes.

In his fund-raising, Geldof has been most impressed by Calcutta-based missionary Mother Teresa and Prince Charles, heir to the British throne.

"The second I met Mother Teresa she struck me as being the living embodiment of moral good. I felt I had no business sitting next to a tiny giant," he writes.

"Of all the people I have met since this began, Prince Charles is without doubt the one I have been most impressed by... he is concerned, compassionate, highly intelligent and I think nervous about expressing himself," Geldof says.

But what does Geldof see as his own epitaph? He says "When Band Aid closes down finally, I will breathe a sigh of relief."

"We will leave a legacy behind in Europe and America in the minds of young children and teenagers who may one day come to view Africa not as a distant impoverished continent but as a close neighbour being helped back to health."

## Lord's Airline on a wing and a prayer

By Matt Spetalnick  
Reuter

MIAMI — A group of born-again Christians has formed a new business for prayer and profit — the Lord's Airline Inc. — to fly three times a week from Miami to the Holy Land.

Some religious leaders denounced the choice of name as blasphemy, but the businessmen — convinced they are undertaking a divine mission — have paid little attention to their critics.

After years of planning and months of frustrating delays, officials say the airline will soon begin flights.

A major U.S. airline, in a display of advertising bravado, once touted itself as the "wings of man," but this is the first time any of the world's passenger carriers have gone so far as to claim to be the wings of God.

"The Russians have their airline. The British have one. So does Playboy. So why shouldn't the Lord have an airline all his own?" asked Ari Marshall, 51, the company's chief executive.

The service will be geared to Christian and Jewish pilgrims, and will offer amenities never before seen on commercial airlines.

Bibles and miniature Torahs will replace in-flight magazines, and alcohol will be prohibited. Gospel hymns and religious music will be piped over the public address system.

Barophones will carry sermons, religious discussions and Bible stories. In-flight movies will have biblical themes.

It is all part of a vision as seen by Marshall, who during 30 years in airline marketing has worked for Pan American World Airways, Air France and the Soviet Union's Aeroflot.

He persuaded several born-again Christian groups to invest \$3 million in the enterprise, and has spent the last four years winding his way through the federal bureaucracy seeking permission to launch the new carrier.

Last year, Lord's Airline acquired its first and only plane, a 24-year-old DC-8 jetliner.

It was christened the "Flagship Jerusalem" emblazoned with the

airline's name in eight-foot tall letters and decorated on the inside with the ten commandments and religious murals.

Last November Christian and Jewish clergymen were assembled on the tarmac at Miami International Airport to bless the plane and pray for the airline's success.

For added insurance, the plane was anointed with barrels of water brought over from the Jordan River.

"This plane is a tool of God. We are his custodians," Marshall said.

But the airline has raised a few eyebrows at Miami's busy airport. Said one irate official of a secular airline: "It's a cheap stunt to get business from religious travellers."

Although the owners claim that their business decisions are guided by a "higher authority," they see nothing wrong with making a profit from Lord's Airline.

After more than a year of frustrating delays, the airline is still waiting for word from earthly authorities giving it permission to get off the ground.

Before the carrier can book passengers, the U.S. Department of Transportation must decide whether it has the financial backing and expertise to serve the public.

The Federal Aviation Administration has certified the airworthiness of the aircraft, but inspectors have ordered its engines to be muffled to meet federal noise standards.

Marshall said he expected to resolve the remaining regulatory issues over the next few weeks and begin service in mid-June. The Lord's Airline plans to operate its 186-passenger plane three times a week from Miami to Tel Aviv via Luxembourg, charging about \$1,000 round trip.

That, said Marshall, will be just the first step. He is negotiating for the purchase of two more aircraft.

When the time comes to expand, Marshall hopes to reach for another goal — flying pilgrims to occupied Jerusalem, a destination which has been placed off-limits to U.S. carriers because the government regards the city as occupied territory.

Randa Habib's  
Corner

## Certificates are not enough

THE discovery of 350 carcasses of contaminated imported meat was proof beyond doubt that certificates "guaranteeing" no nuclear contamination, previously stipulated by the government as a requirement for accepting imports, were not sufficient, and this was revealed by inspectors from the Royal Scientific Society.

However, it would have been simpler if the government, once and for all, banned the import of meat and foodstuffs from countries which were affected by radiation fallout after the nuclear accident at the Soviet nuclear plant, as did Western and some Arab countries.

Western countries, who stand ahead of us in the area of nuclear power and who have a wider experience in nuclear fields, had nevertheless, banned the import of meat and other commodities, with or without certificates, from countries affected by the nuclear radiation fallout.

Why do we have to bring into Jordan goods that were possibly contaminated, check them, and later destroy them or even send them back to their country of origin? Surely we can import meat from countries such as Australia or Argentina, or even better, Sudan. The public could also try to do less with meat for some time until the picture gets clearer.

Error is human, so even local inspection, carried out by the authorities, may be open to some human error and it might not detect any possible danger.



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## 1st Indian American bishop in Catholic church named

GALLUP, New Mexico (R) — An Abenaki Indian born and raised in poverty has become the first American Indian bishop in the Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop Donald Pelotte was installed in Gallup on May 6. More than 5,000 American Indians from 10 different tribes attended the installation and mass in an open air arena.

"What is important is not that I have been made a bishop but what, having a native American bishop, means to all Indian people," Pelotte told Reuters in an interview. "This is a historic time, important to native peoples throughout North and South America."

Pelotte, 41, is also one of the youngest bishops in the Catholic Church. He will work with more than 20,000 Catholic Indians in the southwest in the heart of America's Indian country.

Almost half the U.S. Indian population lives within a four-state radius of Gallup, in northwest New Mexico. The Navajo reservation, home of the largest tribe, sprawls across three states from northeastern Arizona, across the northwestern corner of New Mexico and into southeastern Utah.

The Hopi and various Pueblo Indians also live in the area.

Bishop Pelotte says he wants to bring a message of love, hope and cultural pride to all Indian people.

"As a child who grew up in poverty, I know what it is like to be poor, to feel low self-esteem," Pelotte said. "It is important for Indian people to feel self pride. It is important for Indian people to realize that they are loved and have many valuable gifts and talents to share with the world."

"The theme for my ministry

here will be 'strengthen one another,' from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. Indian people need to realize that they are important."

Pelotte said that American Indians were the poorest of the poor in America. But he said that despite the material poverty of Indians in the southwest, they were fortunate to maintain their own land, language and cultural and religious practices.

"Even though my father was an Abenaki Indian of the Algonquin nation, I grew up speaking French, not Algonquin," Pelotte said.

"Eastern Indians have lost most of their cultural identity. They have lost their language and they have lost most of their lands. Indian people here in the southwest are far more fortunate than their brothers in the northeast."

Pelotte was born on a farm near Waterville, Maine. His parents divorced when he was three months old and his mother, who was of French-Canadian descent, raised her children alone.

Pelotte said his mother's faith helped to pull the family through the difficult years of poverty.

"My mother said to always trust in God, that God would provide and so he did," Pelotte said. "My father left when my twin brother and I were three months old. We were raised in dire poverty. We didn't have any running water. We were on welfare. We were totally dependent on the help of the neighbours and our fellow farmers."

Pelotte said it was after the family moved into Waterville and he became an altar boy that he considered entering the priesthood.

His mother could not afford to send him to a seminary, but he was supported by the church.

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## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.5145/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	2.3682/92	Canadian dollars
	2.2473/83	West German marks
	2.5305/15	Dutch guilders
	1.8740/50	Swiss francs
	45.26/31	Belgian francs
	7.1550/600	French francs
	1540.5/1541.5	Italian lire
	168.85/95	Japanese yen
	7.1875/925	Swedish crowns
	7.6150/200	Norwegian crowns
	8.3150/200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	338.50/339.00	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed firmer but off the early highs in places on profit taking, with equities marked up early in the day mainly in response to the late rally on Wall Street, dealers said.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was up eight points at 1,593.8 after touching 1,594.8 earlier.

Boots, up a net 12p to 267, drew attention on speculation of a bid for the company. Possible suitors mentioned were Fisons, 10p off at 568. Dixons, 2p up at 342, and Beecham 15p higher at 380. Allied-Lyons ended steady at 321 after its bid for Hiram Walker was cleared by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Government bonds pared initial gains of around one point by 1/4 on profit taking but index linked issues were steady, dealers said. Gilts were marked up at the outset in response to the firm performance on the U.S. bond market overnight.

Among companies reporting results, Whitebread closed steady at 291 after annuals in line with expectations while Bass firmed 20p to 788 after better than anticipated interim. London and Northern was a penny better at 73 1/4 but Avon Rubber stood unchanged at 300 also after results.

S and W Berisford was steady at 210 after half year figures while in the same sector Hazlewood Foods rose 20p to 778.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

## FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is good for dealing with important persons or some other large force, as there is a good chance that you can achieve much success.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Confer confidentially with an important person and get advice on how to best gain your ambitions.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A situation arises that will make it possible for you to help a friend with the aid of your partners.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Handle your work or business in an acceptable fashion and please those who count the most to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Seek whatever is inspiring to you and get good results, since you have excellent judgment now.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Try to change conditions at your home so that all can agree and greater mutual benefits can accrue.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Go after the data you need in order to build a firmer foundation to your life, since you can attain it today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get out of that confused state early and you can easily improve financial and practical affairs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be with an important person who can help you to make some ambition come true. A romantic evening ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good day to make improvements at your home and for making more harmony there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to what a successful friend has to suggest for your progress. Get a wise plan started.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get in touch with a clever expert and gain the assistance you need in financial and property affairs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have good judgment now and can get a new course of activity going that will bring you growth and development.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be willing to work very hard in order to gain whatever the ambition may be and will have great willpower and will not be easily thwarted in gaining own aims, once the mind is made up. Any pet prejudice should be forgotten. Promote acceptance and open-mindedness.

## FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today's full moon brings you a chance to wind up some plans that have been pending for some time, after which a new dispensation for you occurs in which conditions lighten up a bit.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get caught up on unfinished business in the morning, and then plan how to improve your day-by-day routines.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make sure you keep a promise made to an associate in the morning, and then handle other affairs that you have put aside.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have been having difficulty performing some task but can handle it now. Make a good impression on someone influential.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Confirm an appointment for recreation and then get right to work and do a fine job with the cooperation of fellow workers.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have a duty to handle for a family tie, so get at it early and finish it. Try to improve conditions at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get desk work handled early and then handle any problematical affairs connected with your home and family.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be sure to handle important financial affairs in the morning, since later you will have to give full attention to outside tasks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get your own goal worked out nicely in the morning, and then later work on money matters that have long-term aspects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sensible in completing a private affair, and later concentrate on a difficult problem with another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) In the morning, you finally gain an aim that has been difficult to do before this, and then go after another one that seems elusive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Handle that civic matter which you have been neglecting, then later you can get the true facts and figures.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You should have success with a new venture in the morning, and later you can handle civic and credit affairs well.

## Economists express concern over U.S. growth figures

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy's surprisingly strong 3.7 per cent growth between January and March may be deceptive because much of it results from a build-up of unsold inventories, economists have warned.

"I'm surprised but not really delighted," Ms. Cynthia Latta, senior financial economist for Data Resources Inc. of Lexington, Massachusetts, said Tuesday.

"The upward revision in non-farm inventories does not bode well for the second quarter," she added.

The Commerce Department, which last month estimated the first-quarter growth in gross national product (GNP) at 3.2 per cent, said it was boosting the figure to 3.7 per cent.

GNP is a broad measure of the value of all goods and services produced in the economy.

The last time GNP expanded at 3.7 per cent was in the first quarter of 1985. But the economy increased only a fractional 0.7 per

cent during the fourth quarter of 1985.

Most economists had anticipated a revision downward for first quarter GNP. Financial and stock markets were initially surprised at the higher growth figure, New York stock market analysts said.

Despite the 25.8-point rise in the New York Stock Exchange industrial index to 1,783.98, analysts said lower oil prices were a more significant influence than the improved GNP performance.

Several expressed concern that large additions to inventories in the early months of this year will force factories to scale back production later.

The Commerce Department reported a \$7 billion increase in its earlier estimate for business inventories in the latest quarter — to \$33 billion instead of \$26 billion — and a smaller drop than earlier anticipated in government buying of goods and services as key reasons for first-quarter growth.

The American economy was booming along at a seasonally adjusted GNP rate of \$3,624 thousand billion in the first quarter, up from a rate of \$3,548 thousand billion in the first three months of 1985.

But Ms. Latta said the latest figures may indicate budding resistance among consumers to continue fuelling the economy through purchases. Mounting inventories are "certainly not a good sign for the second quarter," she said.

Mr. Doug Handler, lead economic forecaster for Wharton Economics Inc., noted that although "the number is higher, it is not an indicator of strength" for the economy.

Inventory accumulation suggests the first-quarter surge in GNP growth will be at the expense of the April-June second quarter and probably will cause economists to begin changing forecasts, he said.

## World needs 47m new jobs yearly, ILO says

GENEVA (R) — The world will have to create 47 million new jobs every year for the next 40 years, mainly in developing countries, to find work for newcomers to the global labour force and to overcome unemployment, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said Tuesday.

A study by the United Nations agency estimated that the world's active population would climb to 3,650 million by the year 2025 from 2,160 million at present.

More than 1,900 million new jobs would be needed to absorb this massive rise, and to give work to some 90 million unemployed as well as improving conditions for about 300 million underemployed, the document said.

It forecast an increase of 1,400 million workers in developing regions and warned that this enormous influx could jeopardise economic progress under way.

In advanced industrialised countries a gain of only 70 million workers was anticipated, due mainly to a fall in birth rates. Workforces in many of these nations could begin dwindling from the year 2000, possibly slowing economic growth, the study said.

## Aerospatiale improves profits and new orders

PARIS (R) — French state-owned aerospace group Aerospatiale Tuesday announced a sharp jump in profits and new orders in 1985 but warned that the lower dollar, cheaper oil and stiffer U.S. competition could bring problems this year.

Chairman Henri Martre told journalists that Aerospatiale's net profit rose 37 per cent to 454 million francs (\$65 million) last year and new orders soared nearly 75 per cent to 35 billion francs (\$5 billion), with export business accounting for 70 per cent of the total.

The improved performance came after the tough years of 1982 and 1983, when the recession in world air transport drastically cut orders for Airbus passenger jets and led to a build-up of finished planes with no buyers at Aerospatiale's Toulouse Works.

Those stocks have now been cut sharply and the group's turnover, which fell 2.2 per cent to 24.6 billion francs (\$3.5 billion) last year

due to the lack of orders earlier in the decade, is expected to recover slightly this year.

The group should remain in profit this year and turnover is expected to pick up well by 1988 with the launch of the new A320 narrow-bodied Airbus, Mr. Martre said.

But he cautioned that the group faced difficulties from lower world raw material and oil prices, which were causing major economic problems for many of its client countries.

He said U.S. manufacturers — already more competitive in export markets as a result of the dollar's fall — were also benefitting from the growth in military credits and the U.S. military research budget.

Mr. Martre said new orders for Aerospatiale had dipped to 7.3 billion francs (\$1 billion) in the first quarter of 1986 from 7.8 billion (\$1.1 billion) a year earlier, and that overall new orders were expected to be slightly lower.

## Lloyds raises insurance war risk premium for Gulf ports

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Full insurance war risk premium for all Gulf ports with the exception of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been increased by 50 per cent by Lloyd's of London, effective Wednesday.

The increase was levied in the wake of the recent spate of attacks on ships by warring Iraq and Iran.

The more than half increase is being levied on vessels sailing in Gulf waters between north of latitude 25 and west of longitude 54, according to Gulf-based shipping executives.

The war risk premium levied by the region's indigenous insurance group, the Arab War Risk Syndicate, continues to remain the same, the executives said.

The Lloyd's hike on war risk premium is 0.375 per cent. The premium for the UAE remains unchanged at 0.25 per cent.

A senior insurance official, who refused to be identified, said that the effective premium being charged for ports in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia is 0.28125 per cent while for the rest of the ports in the Gulf it was 0.18125 per cent.

The executives said that there had been no change in the war risk premium being charged on cargo since it was slapped in 1985, when the so-called Iraq-Iran tanker war was in its second year.

But it is anticipated that the London-based War Risk Rating Committee (WRRRC) might soon recommend an upward revision, the executive said, speaking on condition he not be named.

The existing WRRRC war risk premium for cargo to UAE ports is 0.05 per cent and for other ports it fluctuates between 0.05 per cent for Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, to 0.20 per cent for Kuwaiti ports.

## Kuwaiti minister expects near-term oil price rise

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said in remarks published Wednesday that he expects oil prices to continue to rise in the near term.

"I believe in the near future there will be an increase in oil prices," he told the local daily newspaper Al Anba.

Crude oil prices in New York futures markets rose above \$17 a barrel Monday to their highest level since January, but Tuesday night dropped back by \$1 a barrel to around \$16.50.

The minister said the steep slide in oil prices this year, to below \$10 a barrel for some crudes in early April, had cut oil exploration activity outside the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) more than expected.

"Such developments will encourage the share of OPEC in the oil market to rise," he added.

He warned, however, OPEC still faced problems in sharing out production quotas within the group, which in April agreed by a 10-3 majority to curb its output to 16.3 million barrels a day (b/d) in the third quarter, and 17.3 million in the final quarter.

The dissenters — Iraq, Libya and Algeria — wanted deeper cuts in output, which a senior Libyan oil official said here early this month was running at 18 million

b/d. Sheikh Ali forecast a long round of talks at a regular meeting of OPEC ministers scheduled to begin on June 25 in Brioni, Yugoslavia, to discuss quotas.

OPEC, he said, still faced differences over production policies, but added: "We hope in this meeting to erase problems that marked previous meetings."

He criticised Britain for refusing to cooperate with OPEC in moves to stabilise the market. The price slide has led to postponement of many North Sea projects, he said: "The loser in the end is Britain, because it is not cooperating with OPEC."

He said other non-OPEC producers contacted recently by the group over action to stabilise prices responded positively.

Norway's new government has publicly indicated it is prepared to support OPEC and China says Peking will freeze its oil exports to help out.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Sayassah reported Wednesday the Soviet Union, Norway and Egypt and expressed readiness to cooperate on condition all OPEC members committed themselves

to production restraint. Mexico, Malaysia and Angola have also been approached by OPEC for support and are reported to have responded favourably.

In an interview with another newspaper, Al Rai Al Aam, Sheikh Ali discounted reports that four international oil companies, members of the Aramco group, have served notice to the Saudi government that they would stop buying Saudi crude if prices were not cut by 1.1 a barrel as the kingdom did last summer.

"This is a figment of fiction, as Aramco is a key client of Saudi crude and the two sides maintain a good relationship. I think it is impossible that the dialogue between the two sides could reach such a stage," Sheikh Ali said.

The Kuwaiti minister said that were the four companies to make and carry out the threat of boycotting Saudi oil as had been reported, then oil prices would "rise in a mad way and reach unprecedented levels."

Sheikh Ali said that construction of the pipeline carrying Iraqi natural gas to Kuwait was in its final phase, and the flow would start early in June.

The pipeline's initial capacity will be 200 million cubic metres daily, to increase later to 400 million cubic metres daily, he said.

## U.S. oil firms must leave Libya next month, Baker says

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. oil companies will have to get out of Libya by June 30 in line with discussions held at the Tokyo summit, Treasury Secretary James Baker said Tuesday.

Senator Christopher Dodd, a Democrat, asked Mr. Baker if the United States' allies had pointed out at Tokyo that it has business people in Libya just as the industrial nations of Western Europe.

"Number one, it was raised," Mr. Baker replied. "Number two, in my opinion the deadline will not be extended. Number three, the reason for the period of grace we gave the United States companies operating in Libya... was to prevent a windfall to the Libyan government so that they wouldn't simply have to walk away from those assets."

Mr. Baker's point was underlined at another hearing by Mr. Francis Keating, assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury.

"The president has given us our marching orders," Mr. Keating told a subcommittee of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. "The oil companies will be out of Libya by June 30."

The subcommittee nevertheless urged Congress, by a voice vote, to pass a law imposing the June 30 deadline for Conoco, Amstar, Hess, Occidental, Marathon and W.R. Grace.

The companies have been exempted from U.S. economic sanctions imposed by the Reagan administration because of U.S.

charges that Libya supports terrorism. Critics say the exemption gives U.S. allies an excuse for not sanctioning Libya themselves.

Mr. Baker noted the United States has frozen some Libyan assets in this country. "It's a healthy sum of money," he said.

Asked for the sum by Mr. Dodd, Mr. Baker replied that the figure is classified but was unable to say why and promised to find out. A spokesman at the Treasury Department offered no explanation.

Mr. Baker was also questioned on the trillion-dollar debt of Third World countries and their burden of interest payments, estimated at \$50 billion a year. He opposed putting a cap on interest rates charged by banks, as suggested in a resolution that Senator John

Kerry, a Democrat, plans to introduce.

"When we start talking about debt relief, interest rate relief, lending below market (rates), the net effect of that is in every case going to be that that debtor is cut off from access to the private financial market," Mr. Baker asserted.

"The credit will dry up. And not just credit for bank loans, (but) trade credits and ordinary commercial credits will dry up because the private financial markets will consider that to some extent that is... a default."

He said the result would be an even greater reduction in buying from the United States by the Third World.

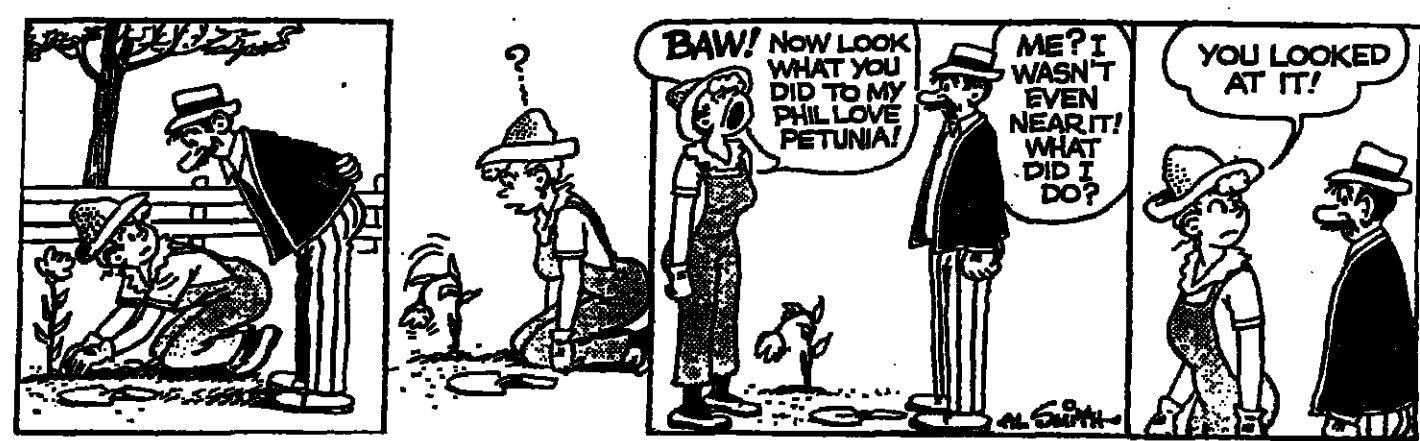
## ADNOC to cut pay, benefits

ABU DHABI (R) — State-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), hit by falling oil revenue despite producing at a four-year high, is cutting salaries and employee benefits to rationalise costs, company sources said Wednesday. They said employees who now receive salaries above the company's basic pay schedule would have them cut, while holiday entitlements for all staff would fall to 35 days a year from 45 days. Some education and housing benefits would also be affected. Abu Dhabi, the largest emirate in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), now produces around one million barrels of oil a day, its highest level in four years. But plummeting oil prices have drastically reduced revenue. The sources said ADNOC's workforce of roughly 3,500 — a large proportion of them expatriates — would be told of the measures by letter over the next two months. They would be asked to agree in writing to any wage cuts. ADNOC planned to withdraw housing allowances for married female staff and suspend efficiency bonuses until further notice. Subsidies for the education of employees' children would also be cut, the sources said.

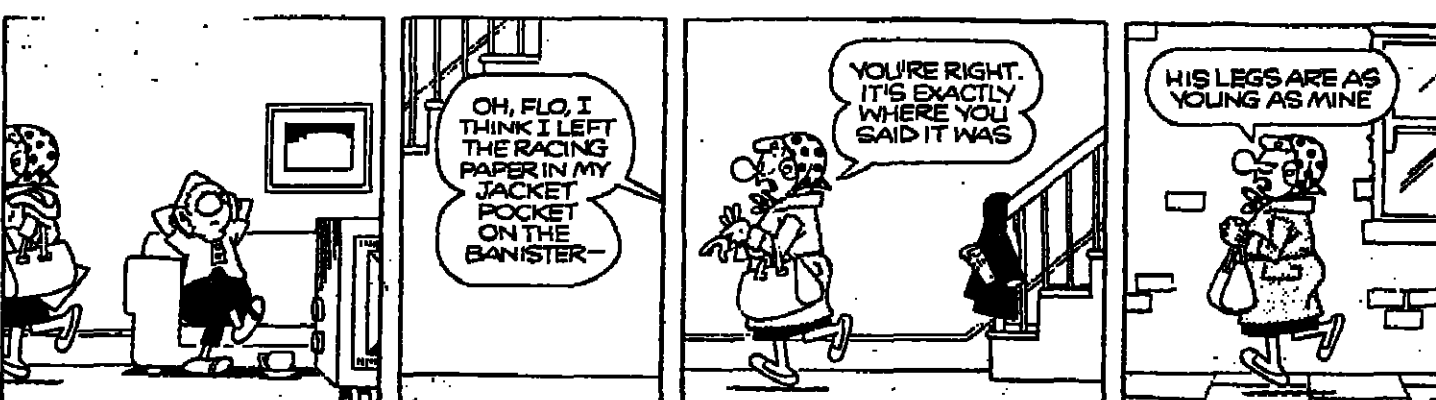
## Peanuts



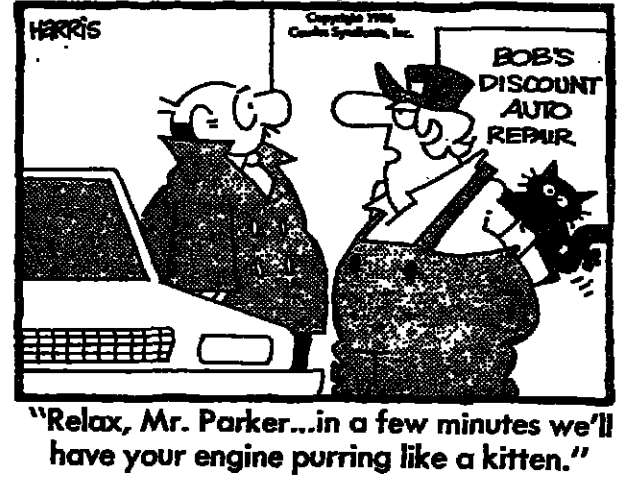
## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

